

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7845

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, ELAB, PINT, OAS, GT

SUBJ: CHILEAN DELEGATION TO LABOR "MINISTERS" CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 221322

1. GOC ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 17 THAT DELEGATION TO SUBJECT CONFERENCE WOULD BE FOLLOWING:

A. MINISTER OF LABOR, GENERAL NICANOR DIAZ ESTRADA, WILL HEAD CHILEAN DELEGATION. DIAZ IS ACTIVE GENERAL OF CHILEAN AIR FORCE WHO HAS SERVED AS LABOR MINISTER FOR ABOUT ONE YEAR. HE IS A TOUGH OFFICER WHO IS ACCUSTOMED TO GIVING ORDERS AND HAVING THEM CARRIED OUT WITHOUT QUESTION. HIS YEAR OF EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH CIVILIANS AND LABOR LEADERS HAS SCARCELY AFFECTED HIS RIGID BEARING ALTHOUGH HE HAS LEARNED SOMETHING THROUGH SERIES OF PAINFUL MISTAKES. HE IS PROPER, SOMEWHAT STILTED BUT NOT UNPLEASANT IN PERSONAL CONVERSATION. HE SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH WHICH HE LEARNED WHILE TAKING PILOT TRAINING AT CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS NAVAL AIR BASE. DIAZ WILL SET WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE THE HARD-LINE TONE OF THE DELEGATION.

B. AIR FORCE GROUP COMMANDER (LT. COLONEL) RAMON VEGA HIDALGO, WHO ACTS AS LABOR MINISTRY'S CABINET
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CHIEF. VEGA IS DIAZ' RIGHT HAND MAN AND FOLLOWS HIS BOSS'

LEAD.

C. CHIEF OF THE MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OSCAR SALAS. WAS UNDER-SECRETARY OF ECONOMY IN GOVERNMENT OF CARLOS IBANEZ (1952-58). SALAS IS EASIER TO TALK TO, RECEPTIVE TO NEW IDEAS AND COMPROMISE, BUT WILL FOLLOW DIAZ LINE.

D. DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (SENDE), LUIS ALBERTO COSTA. HE IS CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT, LAWYER, PAST AID GRANTEE. ACOSTA IS MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE OF GROUP ON LABOR MATTERS. HE IS PAST PROTEGE OF EX-PRESIDENT FREI'S LABOR MINISTER WILLIAM THAYER, IS PERSONABLE, OPEN AND IS CONSIDERED AS BEST FRIEND OF CHILEAN LABOR ON DELEGATION. HE IS PROBABLY BEST MAN TO APPROACH FOR INSIGHT INTO DELEGATION'S POSITIONS, PLANS, ETC. OR FOR LOBBYING PURPOSES. SPEAKS ENGLISH.

E. RAUL SAHLI IS PAST PRESIDENT OF CHILEAN NATIONAL MANUFACTURER'S ASSOCIATION - SOFOFA. HE IS A CAPABLE BUSINESSMAN (ABRASIVES FACTORY), INTELLIGENT, FRIENDLY AND CONSIDERED TO BE AMONG THE MORE PROGRESSIVE LEADERS OF CHILEAN EMPLOYERS.

F. CARLOS ORTEGA ROCCA IS PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL BANKWORKERS FEDERATION - FESEBACH AND IS ONE OF THE GOC'S MORE COOPERATIVE LABOR LEADERS. THIS POSTURE HAS KEPT HIM OUTSIDE THE MAIN RANKS OF CHILEAN LABOR. HE WAS MEMBER OF DELEGATION TO ILO MEETING IN JUNE, 1975. HE WILL ECHO GOC LINE.

2. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING ON ANY SPECIAL PROJECTS OR PLANS OF CHILEAN DELEGATION. IF PAST PERFORMANCES ARE ANY GAUGE, THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE CHILEAN "IMAGE" BY HERALDING GOC PROTECTION OF SOCIAL GAINS OF LABOR DURING PAST TWO YEARS.
THOMPSON

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